

## Minutes of Stated Annual Meeting May 7<sup>th</sup> 2023

**1. The minutes of the 2022 Stated Annual Meeting** were approved by Kirk Session on 22.06.2022 and a link to them provided for the congregation for this meeting in the e-news with paper copies available on request.

**2. Session Clerk's Annual Report.** The Joint Session Clerk, Heather McHaffie, provided a summary of the events since last May:

- Covid restrictions eased
- In the autumn, live streaming by Zoom was replaced by a higher quality service loaded up to You Tube
- New higher quality screens were fitted in the sanctuary and a new computer in the church office
- Joint services with other local churches, Dolly invited to preach at Holy Cross celebrating centenary final service
- Dolly started a regular Friday morning prayer meeting
- Two ministerial candidates Sue last summer Alex more recently
- Kirk and Breakfast in summer holidays and well supported
- Lot happening with children much of it due to Mo Brank our Youth Worker. Not necessarily on Sunday morning.
- The Thursday Toddler Group fully subscribed
- Extra capacity with Drop-in toddler sessions on Tuesday mornings & continued over summer added a short worship, simple bible story, interactive songs and a prayer
- Outreach events for young children and carers at Christmas and Easter
- Toddlers participated in the church Nativity Play
- Children's activities with, Saturday Club, *Kidz@Wardie* on Sunday morning and Network Sunday evenings. There was a residential weekend away for the older children and Network
- Network Alternative Christmas presents
- Welcomed back to Wardie Primary for school visits and church services
- Open Gardens weekend returned raising funds for Christian Aid Week
- The summer tea-party for older members of the congregation
- Guild is thriving and coffee bothies continued every fortnight to in the summer when there are no Guild meetings
- Community Gala in August. Open-air service in the morning, followed by brass and jazz bands, pipers and over 20 stalls, demonstrations and competitions organised by local and church groups, and the dog show
- An Advent trail around people's gates and front gardens. Christmas story and had the added theme of Christmas in 25 different countries
- Tilda collections concluded but excellent final contributions at Bernulf Clegg's Memorial service with nearly £3000 collected
- The walking group and gentle walking group full programme and very popular.
- Shoe boxes for Blythswood
- Fresh Start Christmas food and ongoing donations
- Presents for children of prisoners in Saughton Prison

- Traidcraft ceased to run but still source church tea and coffee from Fair trade sources
- Also use environmentally friendly cleaning materials
- Lots more happening, apologies for those not included

### **3. Presentation of accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

- Trustees have approved the Report and Financial Statements which were approved by the Independent examiners and sent to Presbytery before finally submitting the Report to OSCR
- Electronic or Paper copies are available on request
- The year ended with a deficit of £35000, although half of this was due to revaluing of investments, the real deficit is £15,507
- Deficit actually £21,174 as legacies are included in the accounts but are not put into the general fund
- Legacies used for new screens and sound system to be upgraded and new cameras for recording services
- Percentages shown for sources of income and where the money goes
- We have had a deficit for six out of the last eight years
- We still have good reserves and expenditure is tightly controlled but actual giving has reduced by a large percentage
- Session to discuss how to increase income but invitation to the congregation to review giving sooner
- There are many small funds held by groups within the church with separate bank accounts and it is Session's responsibility to oversee these.
- Proposed that groups with few transactions place their funds within the church account as a designated fund which can be disbursed as necessary. Other more active funds remain separate but with the church Treasurer as an additional signatory
- Grant Ballantine thanked for processing the Gift Aid claims
- John Matheson thanked for collating the organisations accounts
- Douglas Hunter thanked and reappointed as Treasurer for another year
- The Independent Examiners, Hollis Accounting Limited, were appointed for another year